

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION

November 12, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - Baylor University professor William Dembski was removed in October from his position as director of the Michael Polanyi Center for Complexity Information because he supports "intelligent design" rather than evolution, has allowed this to be debated at the center, and refused to keep quiet about the enemies of this position. On April 18, twenty-six Baylor faculty members called for the dissolution of the center, after it sponsored a conference that featured both Darwinian evolutionists and intelligent design proponents. The question debated was this: Is the universe self-contained, as widely held throughout the scientific community, or does it require something beyond itself to explain its existence and internal function? Any humble Bible believer knows the answer to that, of course; but it is also increasingly true that scientists who are not Christians are renouncing evolution in favor of some sort of "intelligent design" position.

On October 17, Dembski distributed an e-mail in which he stated that the "dogmatic opponents of intelligent design who demanded the Center be shut down have met their Waterloo." He had not reckoned, though, with the intensity of the enemies of "intelligent design" among his own colleagues at Baylor. The ensuing outcry resulted in Dembski's demotion.

In a separate action, eight Baylor science professors wrote to Congressman Mark Souter in May to protest a Washington D.C. conference on intelligent design. The Baylor professors mocked intelligent design as "an old philosophical argument that has been dressed up as science." In his reply, which was entered into the Congressional Record, the congressman proved that he was more a man of wisdom than the Baptist professors. He said: "I am appalled that any university seeking to discover truth, yet alone a university that is a Baptist Christian school, could make the kinds of statements that are contained in this letter. Is their position on teaching about materialistic science so weak that it cannot withstand scrutiny and debate? . . . Today, qualified scientists are reaching the conclusion that [intelligent] design theory makes better sense of the data..." To this we say, Amen!

Baylor has long been a hotbed of liberalism within the Southern Baptist Convention. (It recent years it has been aligned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.) Bob E. Patterson, who began teaching at Baylor in 1961, held to theistic evolution. Baylor professor Curtis Wallace Christian, in his book *Shaping Your Faith*, supported Darwinian evolution. Baylor's past president, Herbert Reynolds, defended Patterson, Christian, and other liberals who denied the

inerrancy of the Bible. The Baylor staff has even included a Mormon, Dr. Phillip Johnson, who joined the faculty in 1977!